



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - All other hay production is forecast at 1,178,000 tons, up 12 percent from the August 1 forecast of 1,054,000 tons and up 9 percent from the 2014 crop. All other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 620,000 acres in 2015, this is unchanged from the August 1 forecast but up 20,000 acres from 2014. Yield is expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from the August 1 forecast and up 0.10 ton per acre from 2014. The October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2016.

UNITED STATES - Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay production for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 3 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from August and up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from August, but down less than 1 percent from 2014. Idaho, Nebraska, and Texas are expecting record high yields in 2015.

With the exception of the continuing drought in the far western United States, much of the growing season has been characterized by good moisture. Some Corn Belt States had surplus moisture, which was good for growth, but difficult for cutting and drying in the early part of the hay harvesting season. Later season harvest went smoothly but tended to be lower yielding.

Other hay production is forecast at 79.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast but up 1 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from August but up 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, yield will be a record high for the United States. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, unchanged from August but down 1 percent from 2014.

Beneficial moisture in many central States during May and June, along with an increase in harvested acreage, has producers expecting slightly increased production over last year. Producers in Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, and North Dakota are expecting record high yields in 2015.

Corn production is forecast at 13.6 billion bushels, down 5 percent from last year's record production and down less than 1 percent from the September forecast. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 168.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from the September forecast but down 3.0 bushels from 2014. If realized, this will be the second highest yield and third largest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 80.7 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 3 percent from 2014. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.89 billion bushels, down 1 percent from September and down 1 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 47.2 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month but down 0.3 bushel from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 82.4 million acres, down 1 percent from September and down slightly from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data.